

**Amendments to the claims:**

1. (Currently amended) Binder including an aqueous, film forming, polymeric siloxane, wherein during curing, the binder liberates less than 10 % by weight alcohols based on the overall amount of the binder, wherein the binder is substantially free of inorganic, film-forming material, wherein the binder is substantially free of organo-halo-silanes and organo-halo-siloxanes, wherein the binder is substantially free of amino and ammonium compounds, and wherein the binder requires object-temperatures which are in excess of room temperature for final curing.
2. (Previously presented) Binder according to claim 1, wherein the polymeric siloxane has a content of alkoxy groups of less than 10 % by weight based on the polymeric siloxane.
3. (Previously presented) Binder according to claim 1, wherein the binder is produced from silanes selected from the group consisting of alkyl- or alkenyl silanes, methacrylic silanes, silanes which contain epoxy-, mercaptane- or hydroxyalkyl groups, and combinations thereof.
4. (Previously presented) Binder according to claim 1, wherein the content of monomers in the binder is less than 10 % by weight based on the overall solids-content of the binder.
5. (Currently amended) Binder according to claim 1, wherein during curing the binder liberates less than

5 % by weight alcohols based on the overall amount of the binder.

6. (Previously presented) Binder according to claim 1, wherein the binder is acid-free.
7. (Previously presented) Binder according to claim 1, further comprising particles in the siloxane which act as fillers.
8. (Previously presented) Binder according to claim 7, wherein the particles have dimensions of smaller than 100  $\mu\text{m}$ .
9. (Previously presented) Binder according to claim 8, wherein the particles have dimensions below 1  $\mu\text{m}$ .
10. (Previously presented) Binder according to claim 7, wherein the particles include inorganic particles.
11. (Previously presented) Binder according to claim 10, wherein the particles are colloidal silicon dioxide or particulate silicic acid.
12. (Previously presented) Binder according to claim 7, wherein the silicon dioxide has been added to the binder in the form of hydrogen-, lithium-, potassium or sodium polysilicate or as a mixture of the aforesaid polysilicates.
13. (Previously presented) Binder according to claim 7, wherein the particles have an acid pH-value in aqueous solution.

14. (Previously presented) Binder according to claim 7, wherein the particles include organic particles.
15. (Previously presented) Binder according to claim 7, wherein monomeric silane is employed in the manufacture of the binder and wherein the monomeric silane and the particles are employed in a molar ratio of between 50 to 1 and 1 to 50.
16. (Cancelled)
17. (Previously presented) Binder according to claim 1, wherein the binder exhibits a time for final curing which is between 1 second and 90 minutes.
18. (Previously presented) Binder according to claim 1, wherein the polymeric siloxane has a molecular weight of at least 200 g/mol.
19. (Currently amended) Binder according to ~~at~~ claim 1, wherein the solids content amounts to between 0.5 % and 90.
20. (Previously presented) Binder according to claim 1, wherein the pH-value amounts to between 2 and 13.
21. (Previously presented) Binder according to claim 1, wherein co-binders in an amount of 0.01 % by weight up to 50 % by weight based on the overall formulation of the coating composition have been added.

22. (Previously presented) Binder according to claim 1, wherein the aqueous polymeric siloxane has added thereto an organic solvent in a proportion of up to 20 % by weight based on the overall formulation of the binder.
23. (Previously presented) Coating composition for the coating of metal surfaces including a binder according to claim 1 and at least one further additive.
24. (Previously presented) Coating composition according to claim 23, wherein the coating composition comprises a solids content of 0.5 % to 95.
25. (Cancelled)
26. (Previously presented) Coating composition according to claim 1, wherein the binder exhibits a time for final curing which is between 1 second and 90 minutes.
27. (Previously presented) Coating composition according to claim 23, wherein the coating composition, besides the binder, has added thereto at least one additive for adjusting the curing period, the substrate wetting and/or for adjusting the curing temperature and/or for adjusting the viscosity of the metal surface to be coated in an amount each of 0.01 weight % to 25 weight % based on the overall formulation of the coating composition.

28. (Previously presented) Coating composition according to claim 23, wherein, as additive, one or more substances have been employed from the group consisting of water, alcohols, ketones, glycols, polyglycol, polypropylene glycol, glycol ethers, glycol ether esters, dipropylene glycol, methoxypropanol, butyl glycol, Texanol, aromatic and aliphatic hydrocarbons, and that this or these additives are employed in an amount of 0.01 % by weight up to 25 % by weight based on the overall formulation of the coating composition.
29. (Previously presented) Coating composition according to claim 23, wherein, as additive, waxes and/or lubricating agents have been added in an amount of 0.01 % to 40 % based on the overall formulation of the coating composition.
30. (Previously presented) Coating composition according to claim 29, wherein the waxes comprise solid or liquid emulsions or dispersions.
31. (Previously presented) Coating composition according claim 23, wherein as additive catalysts or at least one additive for improving the rheology, the substrate wetting, the defoaming, the flow properties, the de-aeration, the pigment wetting, the flexibilization or as water capturing agent, have been added singly or in mixture in an amount each of 0.01 % by weight up to 20 % by weight based on the overall formulation of the coating composition.

32. (Previously presented) Coating composition according to claim 31, wherein, as an additive for water capturing, a monomeric or oligomeric silane or a mixture of monomeric and/or oligomeric silane has been employed in an amount of up to 2.8 % by weight based on the overall formulation of the coating composition.
33. (Previously presented) Coating composition according to claim 23, wherein, as additive, pigments, pigment paste, dyes and/or fillers are employed in an amount of 0.01 % by weight based on the overall formulation of the coating composition.
34. (Previously presented) Coating composition according to claim 33, wherein metal particles are employed as pigments.
35. (Previously presented) Coating composition according claim 23, wherein the binder has added thereto as additive a corrosion inhibitor and/or a corrosion preventing or retarding pigment or a mixture of such additives in solid or liquid form in an amount of 0.01 % by weight up to 30 % by weight based on the overall formulation of the coating agent.
36. (Previously presented) Coating composition according claim 23, wherein boron compounds are added.
37. (Previously presented) Coating composition according claim 23, wherein, as an additive, at least one particulate metal for the improvement of the corrosion properties of the metal surface to be

coated, is added in an amount of from 10 weight % up to 95 weight % based on the overall formulation of the coating composition.

38. (Previously presented) Coating composition according to claim 37, wherein the particulate metal is selected from the group consisting of zinc, aluminium, iron, manganese, tin, and mixtures and alloys thereof and chromium-nickel-steel particles.
39. (Previously presented) Coating composition according to claim 37, wherein the particulate metal is in the form of beads, spherical particles, lamellae or flakes.
40. (Previously presented) Coating composition according to claim 37, wherein a solvent for the particulate metal is added to the coating composition in an amount of 0.01 up to 35 weight %, based on the overall formulation of the coating composition.
41. (Previously presented) Coating composition for the coating of metal surfaces according to claim 23 comprising a first component, including
- at least one particulate metal;
  - an organic solvent for the particulate metal; and
  - a corrosion inhibitor for the particulate metal,
- and a second component, including
- the aqueous, film forming, polymeric siloxane.

42. (Currently amended) Coating composition according to claim 41, ~~wherein~~ wherein the first component and/or the second component has added thereto further additives.
43. (Previously presented) Coating composition according to claim 41, wherein the first and second components of the coating composition are stored separately until used.
44. (Previously presented) Work piece including a coating formed from a fully cured coating agent according to claim 23.